

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A store inventory management system, said system comprising:

a computer system with access to a database of current food-related inventory for a store and a database of food-related orders for said store;

a communication interface between said computer system and a universally accessible database, wherein selections of food-related items that are absent from a plurality of homes are accessible at said computer system via said universally accessible database according to a plurality of universal identifiers each respectively associated with one of said plurality of homes; and

an inventory control element executable on said computer system for adjusting future food-related orders for said store according to current food-related inventory, ordered food-related inventory and said selections of food-related items that are absent from said plurality of homes.

2. The store inventory management system according to claim 1, wherein said inventory control element adjusts said future food-related orders according to a historical database of food-related inventory for said store accessible at said computer system.

1        3.    The store inventory management system according to  
2        claim 1, wherein said selections of food-related items  
3        that are absent from said plurality of homes include  
4        expected dates for purchase.

1        4.    The store inventory management system according to  
2        claim 1, wherein said selections of food-related items  
3        that are absent from said plurality of homes are accessed  
4        in an extensible mark-up language data format.

1        5.    The store inventory management system according to  
2        claim 1, wherein said communication medium comprises a  
3        connection to a network from which said universally  
4        accessible database is accessible.

1        6.    The store inventory management system according to  
2        claim 1, wherein said universally accessible database  
3        directs access to a plurality of universally accessible  
4        server systems according to said plurality of universal  
5        identifiers.

1        7.    The store inventory management system according to  
2        claim 1, wherein said inventory control element further  
3        comprises:

4                means for identifying food-related items included in  
5        said selections of food-related items that are absent  
6        from said plurality of homes that are not included in a  
7        database of current food-related inventory and said  
8        database of food-related orders for said store.

1        8.    The store inventory management system according to

2 claim 1, wherein said plurality of universal identifiers  
3 are provided to said computer system by each of said  
4 plurality of homes.

1 9. The store inventory management system according to  
2 claim 1, wherein said inventory control element further  
3 comprises:

4 means for assigning a sale offer for a particular  
5 period to a particular food-related item according to  
6 said selections of food-related items that are absent  
7 from said plurality of homes.

1 10. The store inventory management system according to  
2 claim 1, wherein purchases by each of said plurality of  
3 homes are monitored in association with each of said  
4 respective plurality of universal identifiers.